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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 000385

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NSC FOR JEFF HOVENIER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/10/2019

TAGS: PREL MARR AF DA GE

SUBJECT: (C) AFGHANISTAN: DANES WORRIED ABOUT FALLOUT OF AIR STRIKE

Classified By: (U) Ambassador Laurie S. Fulton; reason 1.4 (b, d)

¶1. (C/NF) The Prime Minister's foreign policy advisor Thomas Ahrenkiel called the Ambassador September 10 to register his Government's deep worry about Afghanistan in the wake of the air strike on hijacked tankers. Noting that he had spoken with his German counterpart, he said this incident could become a serious issue in the German elections (September 27) and make it more difficult for Germany to increase its engagement in Afghanistan. Denmark's key message was that "from a European perspective," we need to avoid arguing in public: "this public discussion between commanders is not helpful."

¶2. (C) That Ahrenkiel called - twice - while en route to India with the Prime Minister indicates the importance to the Danish Government of making its concern known to the USG without delay.

FULTON